

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas comprising:  
a carrier, and  
a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal, the catalyst layer being loaded on the carrier,  
in which catalyst said carrier ~~the carrier-composing material~~ contains Si in an amount of 0.5 to 10.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide.

2. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier ~~the carrier-composing material~~ contains Si in an amount of 1.0 to 6.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide.

3. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has a thermal expansion coefficient of  $6.0 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less.

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4. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier ~~the carrier-composing material~~ is aluminum titanate.

5. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 4, wherein said carrier ~~the carrier-composing material~~ further contains Mg and/or Fe.

6. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains K.

7. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier is a honeycomb carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains at least one kind of noble metal selected ~~from~~ from Pt, Pd and Rh.

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